

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 241812

67

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:CKJOHNSON;CEK

APPROVED BY EUR - MR STABLER

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241812

EXDIS, TOSEC 59

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (HENRY KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED AT DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 10 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SAY THAT IN VIEW FACT GOI REPRESENTS OUR INTERESTS IN SYRIA, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS WOULD BE PLEASED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ANY POSSIBLE WAY TO SECRETARY AND PARTY DURING VISIT TO DAMASCUS. EMBASSY OFFICER FURTHER NOTED THAT THIS MESSAGE WOULD ALSO BE CONVEYED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY THROUGH ITALIAN MISSION TO NATO. WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO EMBASSY OFFICER AND SAID WE WOULD REPORT THIS OFFER TO SECRETARY'S PARTY IN BRUSSELS. WE ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH SYRIANS FOR ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO BE INVITED TO AIRPORT TO WELCOME SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

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